



Justice for Trayvon, Pages 4-5

FLICKR/SUNSET PARKERIX

Rising sea levels due to global warming threaten 10,000 Tuvaluans who live on small coral islands in the Pacific Ocean.

KEEP CLIMATE PROMISES, FOR KIDS' SAKE



TOBY PARKINSON

By SHERIECIA GRANDISON, age 13, HAMNA JAVID, age 15, MUHAMMAD S. KHAN, age 11 and NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA



Twenty years ago, at the 1992 United Nations Rio Earth Summit in Brazil, the United States made promises to address global warming and climate change. These promises have not been kept. The United States releases the most greenhouse gases into the atmosphere per person, followed by China. Now, many kids are taking action to hold our leaders accountable and to save what we can of the planet.

Students like Shellon Punch and Brittany Arboleda, both age 17, are Global Kids activists in New York City who strive for a sustainable and green economy. According to Punch, the

people involved in this campaign are youth. President Obama should also be involved because “he is one of the most respected people in the world,” she says. On Earth Day, people are encouraged to keep the environment clean and protect it, but “that is supposed to happen every day.”

Although 97 percent of scientists say man-made climate change is real, some people deny it. When government policies favor the profits of industries over the environment, Arboleda argues, “those in impoverished communities suffer the most.”

Global warming and changing rainfall causes Limpopo River Basin in the east of Southern Africa to dry up.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE WORLD GETS WARMER?

More unpredictable weather: Expect harsher draughts in dry regions and severe flooding in wetter parts of the world.

More climate refugees: When people and wildlife, such as polar bears and rhinoceroses are forced to move away from their homeland to survive, they become refugees. Global warming threatens different habitats with rising sea levels and extreme drought.

Less food: Food access and the amount of nutritious food is at risk because global warming affects the water supply, farming and fishing.

FLICKR/MONKEYBOY

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Hold a letter writing party. Invite friends to write letters to local officials, asking them to ban hydraulic fracking in your state because it poisons the water supply.

Use alternative transportation. Instead of driving in a car, walk, bike, skateboard or ride a scooter to get to where you need to go.

Eat less meat. Have meatless Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. *Forbes* reports that 51% of greenhouse gases come from cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry—worse than all the cars in the world combined!





Meet... Vinicius from Brazil

Name: Vinicius Guimaraes Silva

Age: 8

Hometown: Nova Iguaçu,
Rio de Janeiro

Language Spoken: Portuguese

Favorite Hobbies: Playing
football (soccer)

Favorite Subjects: Geography and math

Favorite Food: Chicken Batata (chicken and potato)

When he grows up he wants to be:
A football player

What is a fun thing to do in Brazil?
Go to the beach with your family
and friends!



Brazil at a Glance

Population: 205,000,000

Languages Spoken: Portuguese,
Spanish, German

Geography: Brazil, the largest country
in South America, is on the Atlantic
side of the continent.

Current President: Dilma Rousseff
is the first woman to be elected
president of Brazil.

Religions: 74% Roman Catholic, 15% spiri-
tualist 1%, voodoo

History: After 300 years under the rule
of Portugal, Brazil gained its indepen-
dence in 1822. A king ruled Brazil until
1888 when he was overthrown, and slav-
ery was ended. The military controlled
the government until 1985 when the
people demanded an end to military rule.

Learn a little PORTUGUESE

Bom dia! Good morning!

Boa noite! Good evening!

Como vai você? How are you?

Bem Good

Meu nome é My name is

Boa sorte! Good luck!

Country Profile Sources:
CIA World Factbook

115

That's the number of U.S. cities that organized
May First May Day General Strike protests.
Source: www.occupytogether.org

nation&world

Occupy Protests Continue

By TOM ENGLISH

Occupy Wall Street seemed to disappear with the first frost. Though the Occupy movement wasn't in the news much, it kept going during the winter. There were many protest activities around the country. People went into empty foreclosed homes (a home the bank takes over after kicking out the residents who have fallen behind on their home loan payments) and refused to leave.

Spring came early on March 17, when demonstrators, in celebration of Occupy's six-month anniversary, tried to stay in Zuccotti Park in New York City. This was met by a brutal police response, with about 70 arrests, including an officer pushing a protester into a glass door. In Chicago, people locked themselves into a mental health clinic scheduled for closure. Protesters in Toronto, Canada, blockaded the local courthouse to protest police violence.

Occupy, along with other groups, organized a May Day Strike, "a day



ROBERTO REYES ANG

Saying, "We are the 99 percent!" people took off work and school to march on May 1 to demand that the wealthy one percent pay their fair share.

without the 99 percent," in at least 115 cities. May Day has traditionally been a day to celebrate workers, and, recently in the United States, a day to rally for immigrants' rights. Rahee, marching on May 1 in New York City, said, "This is not a movement that affects only a certain group of people, it affects us all."

Occupy Wall Street:

A protest movement started in September 2011 to challenge inequality in the United States: one percent of people control 40 percent of the wealth and have great influence on our political leaders. Meanwhile, more and more poor people lose their job, home and health care.

Trees for Oil Pipeline Grows from Canada to U.S.



FLICKR/NWFBOLOGS

Tar sands in Canada's Alberta Boreal forests

By ANASTASIA SIELSKI, age 16

The Keystone XL pipeline is a project developed by the oil company TransCanada to transport large amounts of oil from Canada to Texas. To be able to make the pipeline, TransCanada needs White House approval. However, thousands of environmental activists came together outside the White House to protest against the



Keystone Pipeline in August and November of 2011.

The environmental activists oppose the Keystone XL pipeline because it would put people's health at risk and worsen climate change. Since the pipeline would travel long distances, it could leak and pollute fresh water sources for over 2 million people. Also, to make the pipeline, almost 10 million acres of Canada's forest would have to be cut down, the equivalent of almost 7.5 million football fields. Nina Sielski, 11, believes that President Obama should reject the Keystone Pipeline. "If it is going to hurt more people that it is going to help out, then it should not be built."

Sara Gutierrez, 12, disagrees, and thinks it should be built. She says that "The Keystone pipeline would make jobs for unemployed Americans." TransCanada estimates that the pipeline would make 20,000 jobs, although that number continues to change. President Obama had originally rejected the Keystone pipeline in January 2012, then he agreed to allow TransCanada to build a section of the underground pipe from Cushing, Oklahoma to the Gulf of Mexico.

An alternative to oil would be sustainable sources of energy, such as wind energy. Wind energy is as effective as oil, can create as many jobs as the pipeline and it does not put our environment or health in danger.

indykids!

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New York Taxi Workers Alliance: www.nytw.org
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: www.peta.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| a) Canada ____ | e) Ireland ____ |
| b) Uganda ____ | f) Florida ____ |
| c) Tuvalu ____ | g) Ecuador ____ |
| d) Brazil ____ | h) Long Island ____ |



Opinion: Another View on Kony 2012

By ROSE MARSH, age 11

Millions of people watched the video, KONY 2012. The video spread like crazy on Facebook, Twitter and email. Most people who watched it were disgusted by the killing and the use of child soldiers by Joseph Kony in the rampaging violence of the Lord's Resistance Army in remote areas in northern Uganda, a country in East Africa.

The video was the first many people had ever heard about Uganda. Kids learn next to nothing in school about Africa or what the U.S. government is doing in the region. We don't get much information in the mass media either.

The terrible brutality of the war in Uganda makes people want to do something to stop it. You can't watch the video and not want to take action against Joseph Kony. He should be arrested for his crimes.

The video is very emotional but it doesn't tell the whole story about the politics of Uganda or of that part of Africa. Uganda, it turns out, has a huge supply of oil. The United States and some other rich countries want to control that oil and profit from it. That was part of the reason, perhaps the main reason, the United States invaded Iraq in 2003. The United States now basically controls Iraq's huge oil supply.



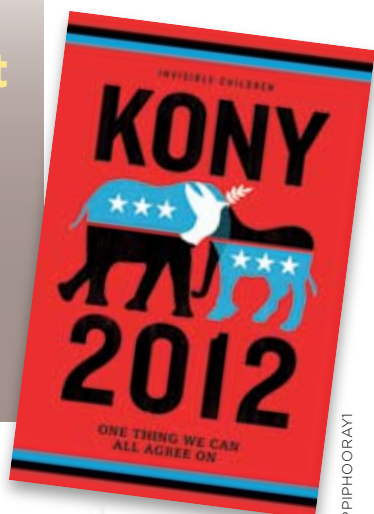
Uganda has been relatively peaceful since 2006 when Kony and his army left. These people returned home only to find themselves in land disputes. Here they meet to decide where to go next.

I think that kids should get the full story about Uganda so that they don't just watch one video and then decide that it is okay for the United States to invade Uganda. The U.S. government might be saying "we want to help the Ugandans against Kony" as an excuse to invade Uganda to control its oil – what happened in Iraq.

Instead of catching and arresting Kony, we might start a war between the United States and Uganda for their oil in which even more people in Uganda will die.

"I think that kids should get the full story about Uganda"

–Rose Marsh, age 11



A student soldier trains in Uganda.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UGANDA'S HISTORY

Late 1980s The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) formed to take over the government of Uganda. The LRA was extremely violent to the people in northern Uganda.

2006 Oil reserves discovered in Uganda.

The LRA moved out of Uganda to neighboring countries.

2008 The United States (under President Bush) provided military assistance and equipment to the Ugandan military to attack the LRA. The Ugandan military is also known for war crimes.

2011 The United States (under President Obama) sent 100 military advisors to help attack the LRA, which has about 250 fighters in countries around Uganda.

2012 10,000 Ugandans watched the Kony 2012 video in a stadium and threw stones at the event's organizers. *Saturday Monitor*, a Ugandan news service, reported that many Ugandans felt the movie was misleading and that it is using them to make money.

newsbriefs

Connecticut Abolishes the Death Penalty



FLICKR/MY_SOUTHBOROUGH

Connecticut abolished the death penalty on April 25. Lawmakers who voted for the law said there were many cases in which those who hadn't committed the crime were sentenced to death and that the penalty was administered unfairly. Seventeen other states and the District of Columbia have abolished the death penalty in recent years.

PTA To Focus on Gay Students' Needs



FLICKR/MKTP

The first LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) Parent Teacher Student Association in the nation was approved at the Portledge School in Long Island, NY. Together with gay and lesbian student groups in the local school districts, the LGBT PTSA will create lessons and programs designed to help combat bullying that specifically targets gay and lesbian students. The group is open to all students, parents and teachers, both gay and straight.

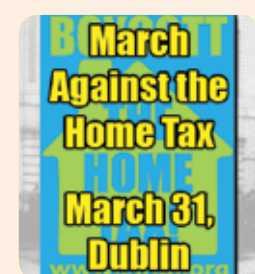
No Meat Pics Allowed

The agriculture and meat industries lobbied to pass the HF 585 law, or "ag-gag" rule, in Iowa, so that anyone who works undercover to take pictures or video documenting cruel working conditions and animal abuses will be sent to jail. Ag-gag laws are pending in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and New York.



NIKKI B.

Irish Tax Boycott



An actual placard from this year's Irish tax boycott.

Fifty percent of the people in Ireland refused to pay the property tax forced on them by the Irish government. The tax was imposed partly due to a \$90

billion debt owed to the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the European Central Bank. This debt has caused the Irish government to make cuts in services such as libraries, parks and swimming pools, and impose higher taxes.

“Now That’s All Gone...”

By SEFTON WRIGHT, age 13, CHRISTINA LOUSELL, age 18,
NANCY RYERSON and AMANDA VENDER



Trayvon Martin was a normal 17-year-old boy in Sanford, Florida walking down the street with a hoodie, candy and some iced tea. George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman, killed Trayvon on February 26. Zimmerman said that it was self-defense, that Trayvon hit him, but Trayvon didn't have a weapon.

Trayvon's family is fighting for justice and for Zimmerman to be put in jail. Forty-five days after Trayvon's murder, Zimmerman was put in jail, but now he is out on bail.

The case is controversial. Some people think it isn't fair that Zimmerman wasn't arrested right away. Others think this is a case of racism. Still others believe Zimmerman acted in self-defense.

George Zimmerman's 911 Call:

George Zimmerman: "This guy looks like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something. It's raining, and he's just walking around, looking about."

Dispatcher: "OK. And this guy, is he white, Black or Hispanic?"

Zimmerman: "He looks Black."

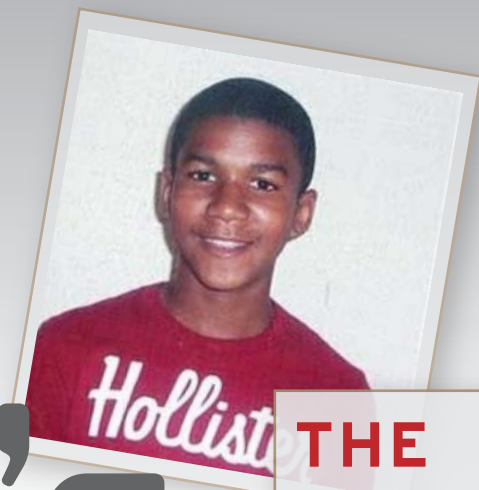
Dispatcher: "Did you see what he was wearing?"

Zimmerman: "Yeah, a dark hoodie, like a gray hoodie, and either jeans or sweatpants and white tennis shoes."

Dispatcher: "Are you following him?"

Zimmerman: "Yeah."

Dispatcher: "OK, we don't need you to do that."



THE TRAYVON MARTIN CASE



Kids demanding justice for Trayvon Martin.

when they feel threatened and they don't need to retreat first. The law is controversial because a shooter can claim he shot someone in self-defense and the dead victim cannot speak. George Zimmerman will try to use this defense in court.



Brooke Harris, an eighth grade teacher, was teacher fired in Michigan.

Teacher Fired for Supporting Students' Interest in Trayvon Martin

An eighth grade class at a school in Michigan planned a fundraiser for Trayvon Martin's parents. Their teacher, Brooke Harris, was fired for helping her students organize the event, even after receiving permission for the event from the school's principal.

Harris told *Democracy Now*. "They just wanted to pay a dollar to wear their regular clothes instead of uniform and donate that money to someone else who they saw needed it."

An online petition to the school, already with over 200,000 signatures, calls for giving Harris her job back. It says: "When teachers are afraid to address controversial issues in their classrooms, students' education suffers and our nation's best teachers are silenced."

Students Walk Out

On March 26, students walked out of Mount Zion High School in Jonesboro, Georgia, to protest the murder of Trayvon Martin. Facing a suspension - which was later replaced with an essay assignment - Aspen Evans wrote to the administration: "We learn about those who fought for justice during the Civil Rights Movement and we publicly glorify them every February and MLK Day. Why is what we did any different?"
-*Occupy Wall Street Journal*



This boy demands justice for Trayvon Martin at a rally on March 21 in New York City.

What Trayvon's Parents Say:

"Trayvon was our hero. At the age of 9, Trayvon pulled his father from a burning kitchen, saving his life. He loved sports and horseback riding. At only 17 he had a bright future ahead of him with dreams of attending college and becoming an aviation mechanic. Now that's all gone." -Trayvon's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin

Stand Your Ground Law:

This law in many U.S. states says a person can use deadly force to defend themselves

A Timeline of What Happened:

February 26:

Before 7 pm: Trayvon Martin walked from a convenience store to his father's fiancée's house in a gated community in Sanford, Florida. A gated community is a place where only people who live there and their guests are allowed.

About 7 pm: George Zimmerman, a member of the neighborhood watch, called 911 to report a "suspicious person." He chased after Trayvon, even though the police dispatcher told him that was not necessary.

7:25 pm: Trayvon was shot dead by Zimmerman. Trayvon's body was found unarmed, with only a few dollars in cash, a bag of Skittles and an iced tea.

7:30 pm: Zimmerman told the police he killed Trayvon in self-defense. The police let Zimmerman go. Zimmerman had cuts on his head but he did not go to the hospital.

March 14: Trayvon's parents created a petition on the website Change.org calling for Zimmerman's arrest.

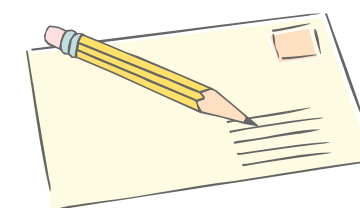
March 18: The Sanford, Florida police department released tapes of the 911 calls from the night of Trayvon's murder raising doubt about Zimmerman's claim of self-defense; this provoked national outrage.

March 19: The U.S. Justice Department and the FBI announced they would investigate Trayvon's murder.

March 21: Thousands attend a "Million Hoodie March" in New York City.

March 26: About 10,000 people marched in Sanford, Florida to demand the arrest of Zimmerman.

April 11: Zimmerman was charged with second-degree murder. He faces up to life in prison.



What You Can Do:

1. Sign the **Change.org** petition calling for prosecution of Zimmerman and for teacher Brooke Harris to get her job back.
2. Talk with other kids about the Trayvon Martin case. Learn more about it and share information with other kids.
3. Talk to your teachers about the case. Ask them what they think.



sciencebriefs

Disappearing Coral Reef



FLICKR/USFWS/PACIFIC

In a report released by the National Marine Fisheries Service, government scientists have concluded that 82 species of coral in U.S. waters will likely go extinct by 2100 if environmental policy doesn't change. The coral are at risk because oceans and seas are getting warmer and more acidic—a result of pollution and carbon dioxide. Coral reefs are vibrant in color and house a quarter of the world's marine life.

California Oranges Turn Green



FLICKR/LITTLE TREES

California residents may lose orange, lemon, lime and grapefruit trees to a bacterial disease spread by the Asian citrus psyllid insect. Some affected citrus trees have been growing for over 100 years. The disease cuts off nutrients needed to ripen fruit, causing citrus to remain green. There is no known cure for the disease. Commercial citrus farmers use pesticides to prevent citrus greening from destroying their crops.

Watching Every Word



FLICKR/BART MAGUIRE

In 2013, the National Security Agency (NSA) will open the largest spying and data storage facility in the United States in Bluffdale, Utah. Technology at the two billion dollar complex will be able to decode protected files. Computer servers will store information collected from U.S. citizens and others at home and abroad. Everything from people's web searches, cellphone calls and travel plans, to financial records and legal documents will be stored at this facility.

New Mass Transit



FLICKR/VPICKERING

New York City will start a bike share program in Summer 2012, which will reduce dangerous gases coming from cars and buses. People will be able to use one of 10,000 bicycles available from 600 stations all over town. More than 200 cities have started bike share programs worldwide.

\$105-\$132

That's the amount of money NYC taxi drivers pay to garage owners for a 12-hour shift.
Source: www.nytwa.org/industry

culture&activism

United Taxi Workers Seek Better Pay



FLICKR/MEIRONKE



Yellow taxicab workers in New York City are now in a union. A union advocates for working people and families. Unions fight for justice in the workplace and make sure people work in safe environments, have health care, are paid enough and treated fairly.

By SAFURA KHAN, age 13, MARIAH WILSON, age 13, and SHEMAR WILSON, age 13

When New York City yellow taxicab drivers felt there were too many challenges to face on the job, they decided to come together and figure out solutions. In 1998, they formed the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA). By fall 2011, they joined a union called the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), so they can join other workers such as carpenters and plumbers in finding legal solutions to their problems as taxi drivers.

Bhairavi Desai, executive director of the NYTWA says, "We provide basic benefits like legal defense. Our main goal

is really to raise drivers' interests to the table and to win protections and economic justice for them."

Taxi drivers earn very little money, but they have to spend more than half of it just to do their job. At the end of a 12-hour work day (most people work 8 hours), taxi drivers make \$286 before expenses. Expenses include keeping the gas tank full, paying the garage to lease, or borrow, the car, and paying an MTA tax for each ride. They also have to pay a fee when passengers use their credit card, as well as for any repairs, tips, tolls or parking fees. At the end of the day, taxi drivers take home \$96, which is 30 percent below the New York City living wage of \$11.50 per hour without health insurance.

Solutions proposed by the NYTWA include: a 15 percent fare increase (2004 was the last time drivers got a raise, even though the cost of living and gas prices continue to climb); stop garages from overcharging; get rid of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority tax; and lower the credit card fee.

Becoming Visible: An Undocumented Immigrant's Story

Nataly Lopez, a student at Baruch College in New York City, fights for the rights of undocumented immigrants. Nataly wrote this essay in English and in her first language, Spanish.

Sometimes, life gives you an unexpected role to play, but it teaches you a lot more than you would have ever imagined. When I was four years old, my mom and I left Ecuador and came to America to reunite with my dad. I learned English, started Kindergarten and went all the way to high school, making many friends along the way. I had a normal American life. I remember my parents would always say that I had to be careful and that I shouldn't tell anyone the family "secret." I never thought it was so big that it would change my life.

I am an undocumented student. I don't have a social security number as do all those who are born in the United States; this makes me almost invisible. But people with big dreams are not easily silenced. I learned to take charge and defend the students who are in this situation. My belief is that people who want to make their dreams a reality should have the opportunity to do

so and not have a barrier to stop them, especially, when they are the future of America. I am an American, like you. I grew up in Queens, New York; I call it my "hood." Undocumented students and documented students are the same; complaining about homework, watching movies and shows, and going out with friends. We all have big dreams, too. No matter what life brings you, there is always a way to make that dream come true.



AMANDA VENDER



NIKKI B.

Ecuadorian American children ask President Obama to give amnesty to their undocumented parents so that their moms and dads won't be deported.

Nataly writes in Spanish:

A veces, la vida te da una sorpresa inesperada, pero te enseña mucho más de lo que hubieras imaginado. Cuando tenía cuatro años, mi mamá e yo dejamos el Ecuador y fuimos a los Estados Unidos para reunirnos con mi papá. Allí empecé el jardín infantil y aprendí inglés. Continué estudiando hasta que me gradué de la escuela secundaria. Tenía una vida Americana normal, con muchas amistades.

Recuerdo a mis padres diciéndome que debía tener cuidado y no decirle a nadie el "secreto" de la familia. Nunca pensé que aquel secreto fuera tan grande que podría cambiar mi vida.

Soy una estudiante indocumentada y no tengo el numero de seguro social como tienen todos los nacidos en los Estados Unidos; por lo tanto soy invisible en este país. Pero las personas con grandes sueños no somos fácilmente silenciadas y he aprendido a tomar decisiones rápidas y defender a los estudiantes que se encuentran en esta situación. Las personas que quieren hacer sus sueños realidad deberían de tener la oportunidad de hacerlo y no tener ningún impedimento que los detenga, sobre todo cuando ellos son el futuro de América.

Yo soy tan americana como tú. Yo crecí en Queens, Nueva York y este lugar es mi "barrio."

Los estudiantes indocumentados y los estudiantes documentados somos iguales; nos quejamos acerca de las tareas, comentamos películas y programas que vemos, y salimos con amigos. Todos tenemos sueños grandes, no importa los obstáculos que nos trae la vida, siempre hay una manera de hacer esos sueños una realidad.

yourturn

Should the U.S. Help Find Joseph Kony?

The U.S. military agreed to send troops to Uganda, Africa to assist in the search for Joseph Kony, who is charged with war crimes. Do you think what the United States is doing is right? *IndyKids* asked these kids in the New York/New Jersey area what they think.

By JANAYA WILDER, age 12



I'm not sure. I'm against children being soldiers, but I don't like the idea of the U.S. army being used to stop him.

Sidney, age 7



What the U.S. is doing is good, but I wish this all could have started earlier. This has been going on for so many years and has been unnoticed.

Lucy, age 12



The U.S. should not go there because there is a one in two chance that Kony's already dead. Even if he isn't dead, there are already people in Uganda who have been trying to stop him.

Rory, age 12



They shouldn't stop until we find him.

Lily, age 13

Someday, you could be a Taxi Driver, just like Bill Lindauer

By SAFURA KHAN, age 13, and NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA



The New York Times reports that 84 percent of New York City taxi drivers are immigrants. Where do they come from?

They come from places such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, West and East Africa, Latin America, North America and Egypt.

What do you think are the most important things readers should know about taxi drivers?

They are family people struggling to make a living. It's very hard, grueling work. Please tip them well and remember they have wives and children just like most people. Some come from countries where they were lawyers, doctors and generals. They become taxi drivers to help with the transition. A lot of people drive a cab to pay for college.

What are some of your favorite experiences on the job?

Of course, any time you have a pleasant conversation. I met a lot of famous people and had delightful conversations with them.

What advice would you give someone who wants to be a taxicab driver?

You have to know the city. You have to like people. You have to like driving, itself. You have to be street smart. Just because you know where Bloomingdales is, doesn't mean you're street smart.

When you retired from being a taxi driver, you became an organizer for the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA). What do you do?

I am a campaigns coordinator. We protest, strategize and contribute articles to the NYTWA newspaper, *Swift Change*.

NYTWA was not a union until 2011 when it officially became part of the AFL-CIO. What does this mean for taxi workers?

It means better working conditions.



BILL LINDAUER

Bill Lindauer drove a yellow taxi for 30 years. Now he works with the New York Taxi Workers Alliance to organize taxicab drivers and fight for their rights.

letters

I enjoyed reading "Women's and Girls' HERstory" [issue #34] because I really believe in women's rights...it was interesting to read about our history. My favorite article has to be "Raising the Bar" [issue #31]. It is completely unfair that these kids have to work for Hershey's in those types of conditions.

Sydney, age 11, Kelowna, Canada

Should kids become janitors? This is a truly terrible idea. True, it may help poverty. But, by firing the janitors, thousands of people will be out of work. Kids should do their part in cleaning up the school. Don't leave tables a mess!

Daniel Watahan, age 11, The Bronx, NY

The banning of Mexican American and Chicano studies in Arizona is not fair. Kids should be able to learn about all different kinds of culture around the world. I hope this changes soon and that everybody will be open to learning about different cultures.

Osiris Russell-Delano, age 8, Manhattan, NY

It's wrong to ban the book *Rethinking Columbus*. Children in the future aren't going to know what Christopher Columbus did to the Tainos. I would go to Tuscon, Arizona and make things better there.

Ally, U.S. Grant Elementary School, Milwaukee, WI

The school board of Tucson, Arizona is being so unfair—they don't know they are hurting other people.

Why do they just judge one group of people? They should not even judge any culture. When I hear this I shut down. They were talking about my culture and my whole family.

Jacqueline, U.S. Grant Elementary School, Milwaukee, WI

I have learned a lot from that book and my friends did, too—that we can be a group and we can work with everyone in the group. I also learned about the Tainos.

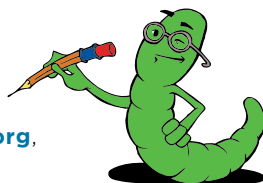
Brandon, U.S. Grant Elementary School, Milwaukee, WI



GARY MARTIN

IndyKids 2012 Election Season

What changes would you make if you were president? Write to *IndyKids* and let us know! Your answer may be part of our special election issue. (see addresses below)



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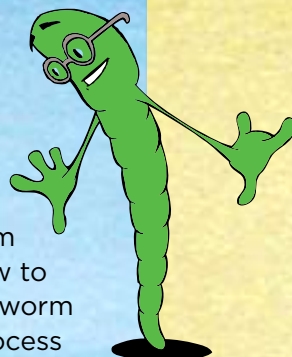


Roberto Sanchez, a kindergartner in Queens, holds up a type of composting worm known as red wigglers. Red wigglers decompose vegetable and fruit scraps, turning them into soil nutrients called compost.

Composting with WORMS in Six Simple Steps

By Katie Musselwhite-Goldsmith

Twelve kindergartners and 1st graders from P.S. 280 in Queens, New York learned how to keep some food waste out of landfills by worm composting. Worm composting is the process of feeding leftover fruit and vegetable scraps to worms in order to create vermicompost: a nutrient-rich fertilizer made of worm poop. You can compost with worms by following these six simple steps!



Step One: Find a Bin and Drill Air Holes

- Obtain a bin with a tight-fitting lid.
- Drill 20-30 holes with a 1/8 inch drill bit in the lid of the bin.

Step Two: Prepare the Bin

- Fill the bin with moist strips of newspaper or corrugated cardboard.
- Add a handful of dirt.

Step Three: Add Worms to Bin

- Use the Internet or a local gardening store to find worms and to determine the appropriate amount of worms for your bin. Eisenia foetida, or "Red Wigglers," work best in indoor worm bins.

Step Four: Maintain Bin

- Keep the inside of the bin moist and feed the worms vegetable and fruit scraps about once or twice a week. The contents of the bin should feel as moist as a wrung out sponge.
- Keep bin between 55 and 77 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Add newspaper or cardboard about once a month.



FLICKR/JOEBART

Step Five: Harvest the Compost

- Once the bin seems full of worm castings, or poop, push all of the compost over to one side of the bin and start the process over on the other side. Stop feeding the old side.
- The worms will slowly migrate over to the new side.

Step Six: Use the Compost!

- Sprinkle compost on soil of house plants, street trees or garden.

What you Should and Shouldn't feed your worms:

Do feed your worms raw fruit/vegetable scraps and cut up newspaper. Freeze skins of tropical fruits to kill any fruit fly larvae.

Don't feed your worms meat, dairy, fish, citrus, onions or broccoli.

SECRET WORD GAME

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 10



Identify the word or words being described by filling in the blanks. At the end of the game, put together all the letters inside the circles to discover the secret word!

1. Country where the Rio Earth Summit was held in 1992, 20 years ago:

— — — — — —

2. Unarmed 17-year-old whose shooting death sparked national protests:

— — — — — —

3. Stand Your _____ is a controversial law that can be used when claiming self-defense in Florida:

— — — — — —

4. Movement showcasing the divide between the 99 percent and the 1 percent:

— — — — — — — — — —

5. Pipeline being developed to transport oil from Canada to Texas:

— — — — — — —

6. Citrus greening is threatening citrus trees in this state:

— — — — — — — —

7. Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army left this East African country in 2006:

— — — — — —

8. Acronym for the U.S. Government agency that records people's emails and phone calls:

— —

SECRET WORD:

IndyKids May Not Be Around This Fall

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"I like *IndyKids* because I get a chance to say what I think and learn journalism at the same time."

—Alexia, age 11,
IndyKids Reporter,
New York, NY